

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SCS-03 AID-05 CIAE-00 FDRE-00 HEW-04

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 EB-08

IO-13 INT-05 OES-06 IGA-02 EUR-12 OC-06 CCO-00

/087 W

-----251958Z 107989 /46

O P 251805Z MAR 77 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4447

FESA FT BELVOIR VA PRIORITY

INFO OSD(ISA) PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

DAEN-FEZ-A WASHDC PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY

USCINCSO PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT AU PRINCE 1079

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SWEL, HA

SUBJECT: HAITI WATER/ENERGY SHORTAGE

REF: STATE 066001

1. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED  
REFTEL.

A. NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS HAS BEEN  
MADE. THE USAID PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER STATES, HOWEVER,  
THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION IS HIGHLY DANGEROUS FROM PUBLIC  
HEALTH VIEWPOINT IN THAT PUMPING STATIONS, WELL PUMPS AND HOUSE  
PUMPING SYSTEMS HAS DRASTICALLY REDUCED QUANTITY OF  
WATER AVAILABLE TO POPULATION, ESPECIALLY TO POORER  
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CLASS. POSSIBILITY OF CONTAMINATION OF SOURCES BY USE  
OF UNCLEAN RECEPTACLES UNDER UNSANITARY CONDITIONS HAS  
BEEN GREATLY INCREASED. LACK OF SUFFICIENT WATER FOR  
PERSONAL HYGIENE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL HAS WORSENED  
ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION CONDITIONS AND COULD LEAD TO  
INCREASED TYPHOID, PARATYPHOID, TYPHUS, HEPATITIS OR  
OTHER WATERBORNE DISEASE. SEASONAL DRY WINDS ALSO

INCREASE RATE OF WATER EVAPORATION AND SPREAD AIRBORNE GERMS. ONE OF FIVE MAJOR HOSPITALS RECEIVES POWER ONLY ABOUT FOUR HOURS DAILY EXCEPT THAT EFFORTS ARE MADE TO EXTEND SERVICE ONE DAY A WEEK TO PERMIT EXPANDED TREATMENT. OTHER FOUR HOSPITALS IN CITY ARE BEING SERVED BY OLD AND UNRELIABLE DIESEL ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND TO A SMALL EXTENT BY THE HYDROPLANT WHICH FEEDS ONLY FIVE HOURS IN THE MORNING.

THE 3,000 KW OF POWER WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED BY THE FOUR 750 KW UNITS WOULD PERMIT THE FURNISHING OF POWER TO VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE CITY DURING LONGER PERIODS OF TIME EACH DAY AND THUS PERMIT PUMPING OF GREATER QUANTITIES OF WATER.

B. WATER SUPPLY TO THE CITY COMES FROM NATURAL SPRINGS IN THE HILLS ABOVE TOWN AND WELL FIELD ON PLAINS AROUND CITY. MOST SOURCES ARE PROVIDING MINIMUM FLOWS. WELLS TAP GROUND WATER WHICH MUST BE PUMPED. WATER LINES OF ALL SIZES ARE BEING DAMAGED BY ELEMENTS OF THE POPULATION IN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN WATER, GREATLY REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF WATER DELIVERED AND PERMITTING CONTAMINATION.

C. WATER CONSUMPTION IN THE AVERAGE HOME OR PUBLIC FOUNTAIN HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM NORMAL 24 HOURS PER DAY TO A MAXIMUM OF 5 HOURS PER DAY. THIS IS ESPECIALLY HARD ON POORER GROUPS OF POPULATION WHO EVEN IN NORMAL PERIODS HAVE TO WAIT IN LINES AT PUBLIC FOUNTAINS TO FILL CONTAINERS FOR DOMESTIC USE. HOSPITALS ARE NORMALLY ALWAYS FULL TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OVERFLOWING AND CANNOT TAKE ALL PATIENTS REQUIRING TREATMENT. THE PRESENT SITUATION HAS WORSENERD IN THAT GREATER NUMBERS OF SICK PERSONS CANNOT GET PROPER TREATMENT. EFFECT ON BUSINESS AND COMMERCE IS QUITE OBVIOUS THROUGHOUT THE CITY. TOURIST TRADE IS DOWN. SHOPS ARE CLOSED AT DARK AND MANY ALTOGETHER. IN THE LIGHT INDUSTRY AREA, NORMAL OPERATIONS OF 10 HOURS A DAY, SIX DAYS A WEEK, HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO FIVE HOURS A DAY, FIVE DAYS A WEEK, AFFECTING 35,000 LOW-INCOME

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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EMPLOYEES.

D. CANADIAN EMBASSY, WHICH ASSESSES SITUATION IN TERMS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO OUR OWN, IS RECOMMENDING TO OTTAWA THAT CANADIAN ARMY SEND FOUR 750 KW GENERATORS ON TEMPORARY BASIS TO MEET IMMEDIATE SHORTFALL OVER NEXT THREE- TO FOUR-WEEK PERIOD. CANADIANS WANT TO COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH US AT EVERY STAGE. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND GOH ARE PRESENTLY WORKING ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE OVERALL DROUGHT SITUATION, I.E. INCREASING QUANTITIES OF FOOD SUPPLIES TO STRICKEN RURAL POPULATION, STUDYING CORRECTIVE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN ON PELIGRE DAM AND DOWN-STREAM IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, LONGER-TERM SOLUTIONS TO POWER SITUATION, ETC. THEY HAVE NO SOLUTION TO IMMEDIATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUIREMENT FOR SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE FOR POWER GENERATION.

E. HAITIANS HAVE PURCHASED FIVE 2MW GENERATORS WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO GO ON LINE IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS--THEY JUST ARRIVED IN COUNTRY ON MARCH 24. NOTHING IS STOPPING GOH FROM OBTAINING ADDITIONAL GENERATORS AND, IN FACT, THEY ARE NEGOTIATING WITH A U.S. MANUFACTURER FOR ADDED ASSETS. AGAIN, TIME IS THE PROBLEM. HYDROPOWER IS DECREASING AND AT PRESENT RATE OF DRAWDOWN IS EXPECTED TO BE CUT OFF BY MAY 1. OLD DIESELS NOW PRODUCING 8MW

ARE SUFFERING MORE PROBLEMS FROM SEVERE DEMANDS AND  
COULD LOSE 3MW AT ANY TIME. NOTHING ELSE IS AVAILABLE  
UNTIL THE NEW 10MW PLANT IS AVAILABLE IN PERHAPS THREE TO  
FOUR WEEKS--HENCE THE REQUEST FOR THE FOUR 750KW GENERATORS  
AS AN IMMEDIATE STOP-GAP MEASURE.

F. WITH THE DENSITY OF POPULATION AND TYPE OF WOODEN STRUCTURES  
IN THE POORER AREAS, THE HAZARD OF FIRE IS ALWAYS IMMINENT.  
DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN REPEATED FIRES  
DURING WHICH HUNDREDS OF PERSONS HAVE BEEN LEFT HOMELESS.  
NATURALLY, WITH WATER IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS ONLY FIVE  
HOURS PER DAY THIS SITUATION HAS WORSENER. BESIDES THE FIRE  
HAZARDS, THERE HAS BEEN A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN ROBBERIES,  
DUE TO LACK OF STREET AND RESIDENCE LIGHTING.

G. THERE IS SUFFICIENT FUEL AND FUEL STORAGE CAPACITY IN  
HAITI TO SUPPLY THE GENERATORS.  
ISHAM

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## Message Attributes

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